(b) the quantum of amount being paid to these surplus employees monthly, alongwith the annual financial burden on the Super Bazar on account of these employees;

(c) what is the reaction of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the details of employees who were surplus as on the 31st March, 1994, class-wise;

(d) what directions have been issued to the Super Bazar by Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) It has been reported by Super Bazar that as on date there is no surplus employees.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Super Bazar has reported that they have not received any observations from the Comptroller and Auditor General with regard to surplus employees.

(d) and (e) Super Bazar is an autonomous co-operative society with its own management. Govt. of India have only a supervisory role. The management of Super Bazar has put a ban on new recruitment from March 1988 except on filling up of posts of technical nature.

Increase in Export of Agricultural Products

1961. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase the export of agricultural products during the last three years;

(b) how far these have helped to raise agriculture exports during the last two years;

(c) whether there has been any change in the composition as well as direction so far as agriculture exports are concerned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The total value of exports of agricultural and allied products excluding coffee, tea, raw cotton and marine products during the last three years have been as follows:

Year	Value (Rs. in Crores)
1992-93	5686.80
1993-94	7532.98
1994-95	7049.04

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

The steps taken to enhance exports of agricultural products include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and quantity restrictions on selected items, provisions of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

(c) and (d) The major agricultural products exported are Basmati rice, tobacco, spices, cashew, oilmeats and fruits and vegetables. These are minaly exported to the USA, Canada, Germany, the UK, Russia, the Middle East countries, Japan, North Africa, Indonesia, and Singapore.

There has been enhanced exports of non-traditional items such as floricultural products, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices and meat & meat preparations to new destinations in Middle East countries, Western Europe and Japan.

Meeting of Board of Directors of Indo-US Commercial Alliance.

1962. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the newly formed Indo- US Commercial alliance was held for the first time in June, 1995 at Santa Clara;

(b) whether the issue of Enron Project (Dabhol Power Project) came up for discussion there;

(c) whether this meeting has affected the Enron Project in any way; and

(d) the name of India's representative at this meeting and what was the reaction of the US side on it since the alliance was conceived as a forum for joint interaction between business of both the countries for facilitating trade and investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Out of 10 Indian members on the Board of the Alliance, 7 members and 2 nominees (of members) attended the meeting. Reaction of the US side on the Enron Project does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) above.

Revocation of Detention Order

1963. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Hindu dated 14th July, 1995 captioned "Buta Singh cancels Gujarat detention order":

(b) whether the Union Civil Supplies Minister had ordered the release of a black marketing petrol pump-owner arrested by the State Government; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose
to lake in the matter'.'

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES. CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes. Sir

(b) and (c) The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 empowers the central Government to revoke any detention order made by a State Government under the Act. On considering/examining the representation of Shri PS. Hariya, a detenu from Gujarat, the Central Government has revoked his detention order. Since this is a lawful action, no further action in the matter is called for.

Issuing of Advance Licence by DGFT to Visakhapatnam Steel Limited

1964. SHRI ANANTRAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that advance licences were issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade recently to Visakhapatnam Steel Limited for import of copper plates against actual users licence;

(b) whether the quantity involved far exceeded the actual requirement of the VSL and if so, whether a part of the licence was nominated in the name of third parties;

(c) whether such third parties availed of import duty concessions to which they were not normally entitled to; and

(d) if so, whether Government would institute an inquiry into the matter and made available its findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Duty-free advance licences were issued (both value and quantity based) to VSP against their export orders/ export production programme, to meet their import requirement of various items of import, including copper plates, for the product to be exported, as per the standard input-output norms.

(b) to (d) In the quantity based licences, quantities of import items are restricted as per standard input-output norms/technical recommendations. In such cases party can import an item only upto the quantity mentioned in the licence. However, in case of value based licences, import items are not restricted quantity wise and, in general, flexibility has been allowed to import any of the inputs specified in the licence within the total CIF value of the licence. This facility is not available in the case of items appearing in the case of items appearing in the sensitive lists.

Certain relaxations were given in respect of input-output norms for some advance